

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 116**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Strickland**

March 12, 2008

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 116—Relative to Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 116, as amended, Strickland. Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate the portion of State Highway Route 101 from the top of the Conejo Grade to Lewis Road in the City of Camarillo as the Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was born in 1864 in *what would*  
2 *become* Ventura County and, in 1880, at 16 years of age, took over  
3 operations of the 10,000 acre Rancho Calleguas upon the death of  
4 his father Juan; and

5 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo married Isabella Menchaca in  
6 1888 and they moved into an adobe on the ranch and subsequently  
7 raised five children; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1890, Adolfo Camarillo planted two rows of  
2 eucalyptus trees, with the help of two Chumash Indians, which  
3 arched over State Highway Route 101 for many years; and

4 WHEREAS, These trees were designated as Ventura County  
5 Historical Landmark Number 3 on August 5, 1968, and were  
6 identified as the Adolfo Camarillo Heritage Grove in the Negative  
7 Declaration for the widening of State Highway Route 101 through  
8 Camarillo in 1980; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1892, Adolfo Camarillo constructed the Queen  
10 Anne Victorian Camarillo Ranch House, which is visible to the  
11 north from Route 101 and was recommended for designation as a  
12 California Point of Historical Interest by the State Office of  
13 Historical Preservation on August 5, 2005, and was approved for  
14 that designation by the State Director of Parks and Recreation on  
15 September 29, 2005; and

16 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo graduated from the International  
17 Business College in Los Angeles in 1895 and was a pioneer in  
18 raising lima beans, which became the major crop in Ventura  
19 County during that time; and

20 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo served as a member of the Board  
21 of Supervisors of Ventura County from 1907 to 1915; and

22 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was a member of the Pleasant  
23 Valley School District Board of Trustees for 56 years, serving as  
24 presiding officer for a total of 23 years; and

25 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo donated property for the Southern  
26 Pacific Railroad to be constructed through Camarillo in 1898 and  
27 this resulted in a station being built that became known as  
28 “Camarillo,” and the town site for Camarillo was laid out that same  
29 year; and

30 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo gave to the community by  
31 donating 50 acres of land for the first high school in Camarillo,  
32 which is named for him; and

33 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo granted land for the new Conejo  
34 Grade State Highway Route 101 project in 1937, enabling the  
35 highway to be constructed across the entire width of the original  
36 Rancho Calleguas from the Conejo Grade to the Union Pacific  
37 Railroad, formerly the Southern Pacific Railroad, tracks adjacent  
38 to downtown Camarillo; and

39 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was a leader in a number of  
40 organizations in Camarillo and California, including the Ventura

1 County Fair Board, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Los  
2 Rancheros Visitadores, and the California Lima Bean Growers  
3 Association, and was a director of the California State Fair Board  
4 and of the Bank of A. Levy; and

5 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo bred and raised a stable of  
6 Morgan-Arabian horses, now famously known as the “Camarillo  
7 White Horses,” which represented the community at many events,  
8 including the Pasadena Rose Parades and the opening of the  
9 Oakland Bay Bridge in 1936, and were ridden by him at many Los  
10 Rancheros Visitadores trail rides, including one featuring former  
11 Governor Ronald Reagan; and

12 WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was known affectionately as  
13 “The Last Spanish Don” because he cherished and preserved the  
14 Spanish traditions of early California; and

15 WHEREAS, It is desired by the people of Camarillo that the  
16 Legislature of the State of California commemorate the many  
17 contributions of Adolfo Camarillo by designating a portion of State  
18 Highway Route 101 in his honor; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
20 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby commemorates  
21 the many contributions of Adolfo Camarillo and designates the  
22 portion of State Highway Route 101 from the top of the Conejo  
23 Grade to Lewis Road in the City of Camarillo as the Adolfo  
24 Camarillo Memorial Highway; and be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested  
26 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the  
27 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this  
28 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
29 sources to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
31 of this resolution to the author, the Department of Transportation,  
32 the City of Camarillo, and the Camarillo Ranch Foundation.